

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc
HINGES & TONGS

MEETINGS ARE HELD 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS SEPT.-JUNE AT ST. PAUL'S' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TRADING & TALKING 7PM FORMAL PROGRAM 8PM

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

editor
Joseph K. Doles

1995



Happy New Year

ALL ABOUT US

RPA as of the end of December 1994, proudly lists 156 active members. Of these 30 are life members, 5 are juniors.

The club is glad to have 14 new members so far this year. Nine of those signed up at ROPEX-94.

We are sorry to have lost 6 members: 4 non-renewals, and 2 due to deaths.

Do you know a member who has been sick or is shut-in for some reason? Let us know, and keep in touch so our absent members won't think we've forgotten them.

Since we have usually 30-40 members at a meeting, you may wonder where is everyone else? First of all, there are nearly 20 members who live out of New York State and about 12 more who live in New York, but not close enough to pop into a meeting. Of the rest, many are home-bound, some no longer drive at night, while some have family or work obligations.

If YOU haven't been to an RPA meeting lately, please try to come; we'll be so glad to see you. If you're an active member and know of someone who needs transportation, why not give them a call and offer to pick them up. The strength of our club is in its active members.

MEETING INFO

The RPA meets the second and fourth Thursdays from September through June. We meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at the corner of East Avenue at Wick Park B. Entrance is on Wick Park B.

Special speakers, auctions, slide presentations and circuit books from the American Philatelic Society are just some of the activities of the RPA.

The club also has a library available to members in good standing. Books can be kept for two weeks and longer if needed. See Joe Doles at any meeting. The current Scott's catalogs do not circulate.

1994 -1995 RPA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....THOMAS FORTUNATO
VICE PRESIDENTADA PRILL
TREASURER.....ELEANOR A. PHELPS
RECORDING SEC..... FLORENCE H. WRIGHT
CORRESPONDING SEC.....JOSEPH K. DOLES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

RICHARD A. KASE - DUSTY MILLER - CHARLES SCHULTZ
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ..NORMAN E. WRIGHT, SR.

Membership Chairperson FLORENCE H. WRIGHT

What Do You Collect

A question often heard from interested friends. Aside from the obvious smarty answer -- "Stamps!" -- our replies are seldom one-word responses. Most of us have found a multitude of stamp interests, and either dabble a little in a lot of things or seriously collect a variety of material.

It's no secret that many of us probably collect at least one topic, i.e., the pictures on the stamps rather than the country they come from or the year they were printed, etc.

A late comer to stamp collecting, I decided I'd like to collect women on stamps. Little did I know what I was getting into. There are hundreds! There is even an organization devoted to the study of Women on Stamps. Have you found a topic that tickles your collecting fancy? Don't be put off by what may be an overwhelming stack of possible items relating to that topic; instead categorize.

The women on stamps might be sorted out by their occupation or status: for example, "first Ladies" on stamps; women authors or doctors or women in "non-traditional" roles. If you really like to stay with one country, try checking out all the women on stamps issued by that country.

Here's what I did: I made a list, starting with *Actresses & Performing Arts*, and ending with *Women as Subjects of Paintings, Sculptures*. Using a stock page for each designation, I slipped in the appropriate stamps, identified by Scott Number and with a very brief biography. Some day I may have time to give them all more attention, but for now this system works for me.

Christmas and trains and birds (all popular topics) are also so extensive, that whittling down the list by categorizing can make the collection, and the collecting, more interesting and easily handled.

Need help or more ideas? Our RPA club library has back and current issues of Topical Time, the American Topical Association's bimonthly journal. It is full of articles, letters, hints, and features for the topical collector. Since RPA is now a chapter of the ATA, the club gets current issues of this magazine and they are available to be borrowed (Psst! Don't forget to bring them back!)

Another place for topical info is right in Scott's Stamp Catalogue. Every volume includes lists of all the ATA Handbooks and subjects of checklists. These are available to members at a small cost. Contact Florence Wright for more details.

So, what do YOU collect? Why not tell us about it, and we'll get your specialty into the Hinges and Tongs.

ONE-PAGE CONTEST

There have been many highly creative entries in the monthly one-page exhibit contest this year! Sometimes it's really difficult to choose a favorite. So far Bernice Watson is the top vote-getter, but Bernice is going to be in Arizona for a couple of months, and that means that several other one-page participants have a good chance at winning that free banquet ticket. Current point standings are:

Bernice Watson	16
Ada Prill	12
Ray Stone	10
Florence Wright	8
Chuck Schultz	8
Norm Wright	6
Tom Fortunato	5
Larry Moriarty	4
Dusty Miller	2

Let's make Bernice worry a little, gang! The next one-page contest will be January 26, and the theme is "Beginnings." The February 23 contest is open - no assigned topic.

Ada Prill 12/29/94

Folk Music and Philately

A group called "The New York Philatelic Bandits" has published its first newsletter, devoted to folk music and philately, and RPA vice-president Ada Prill is the editor. The first issue of *Pickin' & Licken'* features an article by Steve Suffet about the origins of the song "The Wreck of the Old 97," (there were two recent postmarks commemorating the wreck) and an article about Hary Belafonte by Lorenzo Esteban, as well as other short pieces. To get a copy of the first *Pickin' & Licken'*, see Ada at the next meeting or send 32¢ in postage to Ada Prill, editor, *Pickin' & Licken'*, 130 Trafalgar Street, Rochester, New York, 14619-1224.

Ada Prill 12/29/94

QUIZ RESULT

At our December Meeting Ray Stone produced another of his devilishly difficult quizzes, designed to make all of us resolve to learn more about our stamps - or at least about the Transportation Coils! (Had any of us realized just how many of the darn things there were?!) Winner of the quiz was RPA President Tom Fortunato. Also earning prizes were second-place winner John Kellas and third-place winner Ada Prill.

Ada Prill 12/29/94

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **JANUARY 12:** Lou Call has had to postpone his visit until May, so this meeting will introduce the latest APS NEW!!! all - RPA - produced slide show, "Crisis in the Gulf," by L. Kelly Armstrong. Kelly made the collection, Joe Doles did the photography, and RPA out-of-town member Peter Jehrio did the narration! This is the first new APS slide show RPA has produced since Warren Stevens did several about 20 years ago, so come to the January 12 meeting and cheer on the home team!
- **JANUARY 26:** "The Prexies Go to War," a slide show by Stephen L. Suffet. Ada saw this slide show at the Garfield Perry March Party and talked Steve into letting us borrow it. It's based on Steve's gold-medal exhibit of the 1938 U.S. Presidential Series - these stamps, which include the dull purple Jeffersons so many of us grew up thinking were the only stamps the U.S. had ever produced, turn out not to be boring after all when looked at from a postal history approach! Also, one-page exhibit contest on "Beginnings."
- **FEBRUARY 9:** Member Auction. This is a good opportunity to get your collection organized and get rid of the things that no longer really interest you - and make some room for all the wonderful things you'll want to buy at ROPEX.
- **FEBRUARY 23:** Program to be announced. One-page exhibit contest on any subject.

Ada Prill 12/29/94



Cancels for ROPEX'95 as submitted to U.S.P.S.

History of
The Rochester Philatelic Association
1913-1971
by Thomas M. Fortunato
part I

After an exhaustive search and review of all of the documentation stored by the Rochester Philatelic Association over the years, the RPA Archive Committee members, chaired by Paul Gerwitz, have compiled our notes resulting in this work. It is believed to be the most accurate and complete historical review ever attempted by the RPA.

Eighty plus years have taken their toll on the archived material. The first order of business was to organize all documents in an orderly manner. In doing so, it was obvious that several gaps in our history may never be filled due to a lack of information. However, it is hoped that some of our senior members may be able to recall additional details to improve this history.

It all began officially on March 26, 1913 at 8 PM in the lobby of the Hotel Rochester. Two weeks earlier, on March 12, thirteen men banded together agreeing to call themselves the Rochester Philatelic Association and paying their \$2 annual dues to become founding members. These men were: L.S. Richardson (President), M.F. Ottly (Vice President), Fred E. Merritt (Treasurer), Freeman C. Allen (Recording Secretary), Paul Wild (Librarian), Woolf H. Amberg, L.L. Albright, Harvey J. Haddleton, Dr. George P. French (a nationally recognized philatelist at the time), M. R. Burton, Dr. Sigmund Handler, William A. Carr and John S. Williamson.

Two other attendees decided not to join, but by the meeting on the 26th, some 19 paid members were present. The men agreed to meet the fourth Wednesday of every month to further their collecting interests. There was no actual rental fee for meeting in the Hotel Rochester's lobby, however minutes of the next few meetings note that 50¢ was paid each night to the porter, who made the scheduling arrangements with the hotel.

From the beginning there were strong ties between the RPA and the already established Rochester Numismatic Association, with some members belonging to both groups. There were early discussions to determine if the two groups could jointly find a common meeting place, which never came to fruition.

In fact, finding a permanent meeting site was always a problem in the early years of the RPA. Over the next few years the RPA met at the Surrogate Court Room of the Monroe County Court

House, the Rochester YMCA, the Ellwanger Barry Building (where Paul Wild had his Covert Stamp Company office) as well as the Hotel Rochester. One reason was economic, as 50¢ was a tidy sum in those days. The other was for space, as the membership ebbed and flowed.

The RPA agreed to join the American Philatelic Society in a meeting on September 24, 1913. By November 26 there were four junior members in the club who each paid dues of 50¢ per year. The first woman member joined in June, 1914, referred in the minutes as "Mrs. Zimmerman". She had paid her dues at that meeting, but her name never again appears in latter RPA meeting minutes.

The featured event at most gatherings was the display of a country collection brought in by one of the members. However an auction took place in October, 1913, with sold lots totaling \$8.65. One dollar went to the club treasury. A competitive exhibit was held the following March. The RPA was invited to join the RNA in a banquet scheduled January, 1914. It was a rousing success except for the fact that when all was completed, a \$40 deficit was split to pay the Hotel Rochester's restaurant final bill.

The strength of the RPA- or at least its leadership- was evident when the RPA agreed to invite the APS to hold its 1915 annual convention in Rochester. The offer was extended to APS officials at the 1914 APS convention held in Niagara Falls. APS president General Lehas Coolidge opted to hold it instead in San Francisco, but gave tentative approval for Rochester hosting the 1917 meeting.

Little came of this, as tough times were ahead for the RPA. Former vice president M.F. Ottly became the first expelled RPA member on November 24, 1915. He had ordered \$37.22 worth of items from a dealer in Bath, England and failed to pay him for the shipment. The February 28, 1917 meeting was especially interesting. Membership had dwindled and there was talk of disbanding. A spirited debate that evening arose as to how the \$91.24 treasury would be divided should the RPA dissolve. This minor crisis was settled by agreeing to meet informally at Paul Wild's stamp shop, change the meeting date to the fourth Thursday of every month and to continue to recruit new members.

Not much is known of the RPA during the war years. It is noted that renewed interest brought the membership numbers up again and another meeting site was found at the new Municipal Museum at Exposition Park, later named Edgerton Park. The first meeting there took place on July 24, 1919.

Correspondences in the archives from 1921-3

dealt with mainly one topic. Work had begun in 1919 to create a club collection of stamps, at first out of duplicates members had on hand. Two years later, the project had created one of the best worldwide stamp collections in the world, putting Rochester on the philatelic map. Donations were sought from members and other collectors from around Rochester and western New York. In turn, entire collections were donated to the "Municipal Collection". Stamp frames were ordered to house the collection from the same company which made them for the National Stamp Collection at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. A gala exhibition was held in December, 1921 to unveil the stamps and frames to the public.

Rochester's collection gained local, national and international attention. A front page article in Sunday's December 4, 1921 edition of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle highlighted the

teamwork of the entire RPA membership in forming it. Publicity about it traveled far and wide. In fact, the RPA accepted an invitation extended in late 1921 by the organizing committee of the 1923 International Stamp Exhibition in London to be named a "Committee of Honor" club member. It is unclear as to whether an RPA member actually attended the May 14-26, 1923 show, or what the "honor" actually entailed. Such attention brought membership inquiries from as far away as the Straits Settlements. References continue to mention the club collection up into the 1960's.

Sometime between 1923-6, the RPA organized a junior branch for boys of high school age. Even then collectors realized that the future of philately depended on getting youngsters involved in the hobby. On February 28, 1928 the RPA became a branch of the Society of Philatelic Americans, a rival of the APS. The major benefit of joining was to receive sales circuit books for the members to browse during meetings.

[continued in the next H&T]

U.S.P.S. ANNOUNCES 1995 STAMPS PROGRAM NO SPECIFIC DATES AT THIS TIME

ISSUE	DATE	ISSUE	DATE
Love (Cupids - 1 oz. nondenominated)	February	Louis Armstrong	July
Florida Statehood (150th Anniversary)	March	World War II: 1945 Victory at Last	
Bessie Coleman (Black Heritage)	April	(10 designs)	August
Richard Nixon	April	Fall Garden Flowers (5 designs)	August
Earth Day (Kids Environmental-4 designs)	April	Prehistoric Animals (4 designs)	August
Love (Cupids - 1 & 2oz denominated)	May	Milton S. Hershey	September
Great Lakes Lighthouses (5 designs)	May	Jazz Musicians (10 designs)	September
Marilyn Monroe	June	Texas Statehood (150th Anniversary)	September
United Nations (50th Anniversary)	June	U.S. Naval Academy	October
Recreational Sports (5 designs)	June	American Comic Strips (20 designs)	October
Tennessee Williams (Literary Arts)	July	Holiday (5 designs)	October
Carousel Horses (4 designs)	July	Antique Automobiles (5 designs)	November
Civil War (20 designs)	July	James K. Polk	November

NEW BOOKS IN RPA LIBRARY

Philately and the Computer: An Illustrated Guide to Using the Personal Computer as a Philatelic Tool, by Dick Wolf and Alj Mary. Published by The Traditions Press, 10660 Barkley Lane, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66212-1861. Soft bound, 272 pages. \$33.45 postpaid from the publisher. (Also available at McLeod Stamp & Coin, Inc., 2423 Monroe Ave. editor)

This book contains a vast amount of useful information on type, graphics, and layout. It's packed with ideas that can be used for exhibition or for personal collections. Even the non-computer user can get ideas from this volume. Chapters titled "Special Page Formats", "Stamps and Databases" and "Other Stuff You Can Do" makes this a must "read" for any philatelist using a PC.

75 Years of Christmas Stamps by Waller A. Sager and Kathleen M. Berry, published 1972, and *United States Postal Card Catalog* by the United Postal Stationery Society, 1985, are new additions to the library thanks to the family of Warren Stevens. Books may be borrowed for a period of two weeks, see Joe Doles.

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